THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The cost of doubling comes to about Rs. 1 cr. per km. while the cost of Gauge conversion is about Rs. 651 lakhs per km. The carrying capacity of broad guage is double that of metre gauge and immediately on conversion the section has double the capacity and can thus handle that much additional traffic.

(c) and (d) Gauge conversion is a more economic means of capacity generation on sections where the converted section will provide alternative routes of similar or shorter lengths. In all other cases when the capacity of single line sections gets saturated, doubling has to be taken up.

Conversion of Rail bridge into road-cum-rail bridge in Rajamundry

4645. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the third Railway bridge at Rajamundry across the Godavari River into a road-cum-rail bridge;

(b) if so, the dteails thereof;

(c) whether it is technically possible to effect this conversion at this juncture;

(d) whether any study has been commissioned by the Railways to fix costs of such a conversion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Increase of revenue in Vijayawada Division

4646. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the annual increase of revenue in the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway during the last three financial years;

(b) whether the Railways are making any plans to correspondingly increase facilities for both passenger and transporters of goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Revenue (earnings) of Vijayawada Division, compiled on originating basis during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 alongwith the percentage increase/decrease over the earlier years, are furnished below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Earning	Percentage increase over previous year
1992-93	218.75	-3%
1993-94	220.29	28%
994-95	300.35	7%